Shortage of Aluminium

1797. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently denied about any scarcity of Aluminium in the country;

(b) whether despite the denial of any scarcity of Aluminium, it is not supplied to manufacturers; and

(c) the further steps Government propose to take to make adequate supply of Aluminium to the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The production and availability of primary aluminium during 1988—89 as compared with 1987—88 is as under:—

(*In '000 tons*)

	1987-88	1988-89	Increase
Production			
April to October	148	190	+42
November to March	130	170 estimate	+40
TOTAL :	278	360	+82
Imports by MMTC.	55.	—	—55
GRAND TOTAL :	333	360	+27

During 1988—89, the demand is estimated around 360,000 tonnes against which the domestic production is expected to be 360,000 tonnes including estimated production of 80,000 tonnes by National Aluminium Company.

Aluminium has been placed on Open General License (OGL) with only marginal level of customs duty of Rs. 500 per tonne.

Further the customs duty on import of aluminium scrap, already on OGL, has also been reduced from 95%ad valorem to 35/ ad valerem.

Foreign off-shore patrol vessel

1798. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a biggest anti-poaching operation in recent years, an off-shore patrol vessel of Indian Coastal Guard intercepted and seized six sophisticated Taiwanese fishing trawlers which were poaching off the Gujarat Coast during the third week of October, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of other foreign countries are